



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A LOTUS

the HIT LIST AGENDA

ISSUE #1 of 3

VINCE HERNANDEZ
OLIVER NOME
EMILIO LOPEZ



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LETTERING

JOSH REED



PART 1 OF 3

The story so far...

The trail of 'The Hit List Agenda' burns deeper across the globe, as the Cordova drug cartel in Colombia finds itself dominating their rivals with the help of their own capable executive assistant, Orchid. Yet, bloody secrets of the past threaten to haunt the future of the Cordova enterprise—no matter how far they must reach.

The Republic of India. The world's second-most populated country—a democracy. But a land fraught with great peril and conflict. With the fate of over one billion citizens under its banner, many 'unknown' forces at play dictate the terms of the country's decisions. Forces which blur the lines between good and evil.



A: DIRECT EDITION
OLIVER NOME
PETER STEIGERWALD



B: DIRECT EDITION
EDUARDO FRANCISCO
PETER STEIGERWALD

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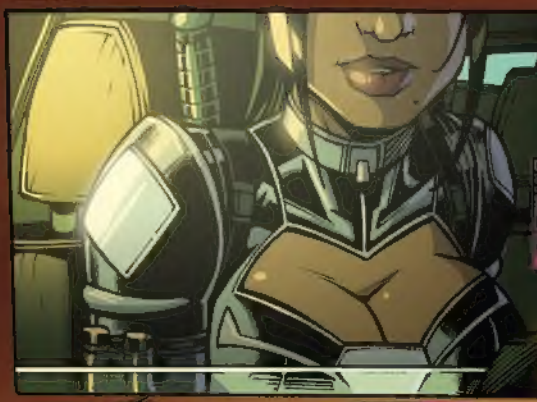
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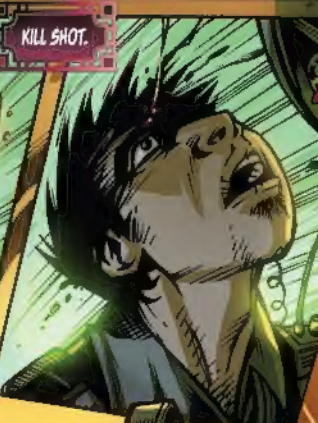
THE ISRAELI EMBASSY
EMPLOYED COMPETENT
ENOUGH GUARDS AT
THE FRONT GATE.

...BUT THE MALE MIND IS EASILY
DIVERTED. A PUSH-UP BRA CAN BE
DEADLY WHEN USED PROPERLY.

A SPLIT SECOND WAS
ALL I NEEDED TO
RAISE MY PISTOL.



KILL SHOT.



THE SECOND GUARD
NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.
BEFORE HIS MIND WAS
ABLE TO PROCESS WHAT
WAS HAPPENING, I SHOT
HIM IN THE TEMPLE AS I
EXITED THE VEHICLE.



THEY WERE EXPECTING
RADICAL EXTREMISTS, NOT AN
ATTRACTIVE INDIAN GIRL.

ALWAYS THEIR
FIRST MISTAKE.

I REMEMBER THE BLAST WARMED MY BACK.
IT WAS A SIZEABLE EXPLOSION FOR SUCH A
SMALL EURO CAR. THE T.N.T. HELPED.

...I WAS GOING TO THE
THIRD FLOOR.

THEIR LOBBY LEVEL CONTAINED THREE
ARMED GUARDS. ALL WERE MOST LIKELY
ON THEIR WAY OUT TO RESPOND TO THE
BLAST. BUT THAT WAS OK...

THE NEXT PART TOOK
GOOD TIMING...

BOOM

ZIPP

...AND FLAME RETARDANT CLOTHING. THE
NANO-FIBER SUIT WAS QUITE PRICEY, BUT IT
HAS PROVED ITS VALUE MANY TIMES OVER.

MY INTEL TOLD ME THE
AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE WAS
SOMEWHERE ON THIS FLOOR.

I CARRIED ENOUGH
ROUNDS ON ME TO
TAKE OUT THE ENTIRE
LEVEL IF I COULDN'T
MAKE HIS IDENTITY
QUICK ENOUGH.

1:52

I CHECKED
MY WATCH. I HAD
JUST UNDER TWO
MINUTES BEFORE
THEY'D ARRIVE.

I TOOK OUT ANOTHER
ARMED GUARD AS WELL AS
AN UNLUCKY EMBASSY OFFICE
CLERK. MAN OR WOMAN-- IT
DIDN'T MATTER BACK THEN.

1:27

BUT NEVER CHILDREN.
I DID HAVE RULES.

SEVEN DEAD BODIES
LATER, I FOUND THE
ISRAELI AMBASSADOR
HIDING BEHIND A DESK.

I PLANTED A HIGH-
POWERED SEMTAX EXPLOSIVE,
JUST IN CASE.

I TOOK HIM OUT WITH
A MINUTE TO SPARE.

DEED DONE.
I CHECKED MY
WATCH AGAIN.

0:40

HE KNEW WHY I WAS THERE.
HE KNEW I WAS INSURANCE,
TO MAKE SURE HE WAS
ELIMINATED.

WHAT I STATED EARLIER ABOUT
RADICAL EXTREMISTS, WELL, THEY
WORRY ABOUT THEM FOR GOOD
REASON. AND ONE POSITIVE
THING ABOUT EXTREMISTS IS—
THEY'RE ALWAYS PUNCTUAL.

AND NOW THANKS TO MY WORK,
THE LOBBY GUARDS WERE RUNNING UP
THE STAIRWELL BETWEEN THE SECOND
AND THIRD FLOORS ON THEIR WAY TO
TRY AND PROTECT THE MARK I JUST
TOOK OUT A MINUTE EARLIER. THE
LOBBY WAS UNPROTECTED.

...IT WAS TIME FOR
ME TO EXIT.

WHICH MEANT...

0:05

0:00



ALWAR, INDIA. THREE YEARS EARLIER.

MY PREVIOUS LIFESTYLE WAS NOT IN LINE WITH WHAT SOCIETY DEEMS ACCEPTABLE, I'M WELL AWARE OF THIS. HOWEVER, I WAS BORN INTO IT.

MY FATHER TOOK MARKS. AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM. MY FAMILY TREE IS SOILED WITH THE BLOOD OF HUNDREDS, MAYBE MORE, SO WHAT OTHER CHOICE WAS AVAILABLE TO ME...

...BUT TO CONTINUE TO GROW ITS ROOTS.

I KILLED MY FIRST ANIMAL WHEN I WAS EIGHT. A MOUNTAIN LION, WITH A DAGGER FATHER GAVE ME ON MY BIRTHDAY.

TOOK OUT MY FIRST ADULT MALE WHEN I WAS ELEVEN-- A YEAR AFTER MY FATHER'S PASSING.

THIS TIME, MY WEAPON OF CHOICE WAS A BOW AND ARROW. I DEDICATED THE ACT TO HIS HONOR.

ELEVEN YEARS OLD.

STORIES REGARDING MY KILLS WERE EMBELLISHED THROUGHOUT MY VILLAGE, AND THAT IS WHEN MY LEGEND BEGAN TO GROW...

...AND MY CONFIDENCE BLOOMED.

FROM THAT POINT ON,
I STOPPED COUNTING.

MISS
RANI, MY
LADY *

*TRANSLATED
FROM HINDI.

MY LADY,
MR. KHAN IS
HERE TO SEE
YOU.

PLEASE, YOU
MAY CALL ME
NIMISH.

GREETINGS,
MR. KHAN. AND
YOU MAY CALL
ME RANI.

AH, 'QUEEN,' AN EXCELLENT
CODENAME IF I MAY SAY SO.
ONE BEFITTING A WOMAN OF
YOUR... TALENTS.

SO, WHAT
CONTRACT HAVE YOU
BROUGHT ME NOW
THAT **REQUIRES** MY
TALENTS?

HIS NAME IS
VIRAT YADAV. A
MAJOR PLAYER IN
BOTH CORPORATE
BUSINESS AND THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. HIS
ACTIONS HAVE BEGUN
TO OUTWEIGH HIS
RELEVANCE, IF YOU
SEE MY POINT.

I DO.

YOU **SHOULD**
KNOW HOWEVER, HIS
HEAD IS ALREADY ON
THE MARKET. HE WON'T
FALL EASILY; HE'S WELL
GUARDED. WE'VE
PREPARED A FULL
DOSSIER ON HIS
SECURITY.

ISHWAR WILL SEE
YOU OUT. PLEASE
LEAVE YOUR DOWN
PAYMENT WITH
HIM.

YOU MAY SAVE
IT. I PREFER TO
DO MY OWN
HOMEWORK.

PERHAPS, I WAS
TOO CONFIDENT
BACK THEN.

I TRACKED HIS MOVEMENTS FOR WEEKS FROM AFAR. STUDIED HIS HOME. HIS SECURITY DETAIL'S HOMES. THEIR MOVEMENTS. EVERYTHING.

I THOUGHT I COULD HANDLE ANYTHING.

ANYONE.

WHAT I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE...

FFFFFT

...WAS HER
TALKING UP.

NO...



WHAT HAVE I...?

LOTUS, ARE YOU UP AGAIN? I TOLD YOU YOUNG LADY, THEY ARE ONLY NIGHTMARES---

MY... MY BABY! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? MURDERER!! SHE HAS... SHE HAS DONE NOTHING TO YOU!

IT WAS... A MISTAKE.

FREEZE!

SHE'S UP HERE!

BAM BAM BAM

I...

WHY I COULD NOT SAY THE WORDS THEN, I WILL NEVER KNOW.

TWO YEARS
AGO.

NEVER A CHILD.

IT WAS MY ONLY RULE,
AND I BROKE IT.

AND IN TURN,
IT BROKE ME.

LOOKING INSIDE, ALL
I SAW WAS HER FACE.

TO END THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO'VE
CHOSEN THEIR PATH INTO THE DARK ABYSS,
I DEEMED ACCEPTABLE. BUT THAT I
DENIED HER OF A CHOICE ALTOGETHER.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT...
SOMETHING. AND I HATED IT.

I HATED THE FEELING
OF FEELING.



I KNEW MUHAMMAD WOULD COME AFTER ME FOR FAILING TO TAKE OUT VIKAR.

DO IT.

HE WAS IMPULSIVE, A TRAIT I INSTANTLY NOTED AS ONE I WOULD EXPLOIT.

I KNEW HE WOULDN'T SEND HIS MESSAGE QUIETLY.

I TOOK OUT THE FIRST TWO EASY ENOUGH.

MUHAMMAD?

THE OTHER TWO, WHO NO DOUBT NONCHALANTLY DECIDED TO BREAK IN FROM THE FRONT OF MY HOME RECEIVED MUCH WORSE.

THE GAS WAS A RAPID-ACTING COMPOUND, AND IF I HAD THE CHOICE, I'D HAVE TAKEN THE SNIPER BULLET.

SHIT--

THE LAST GUY...

...HE KNEW WHERE
TO LOOK...

TURN
AROUND AND
DROP THE
WEAPON!

POW!

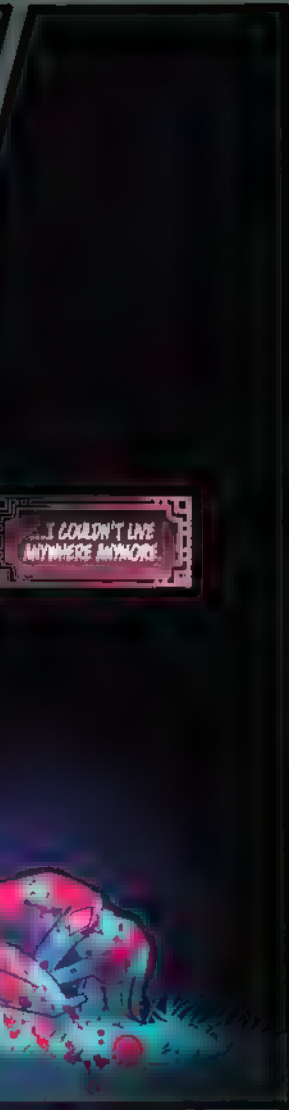
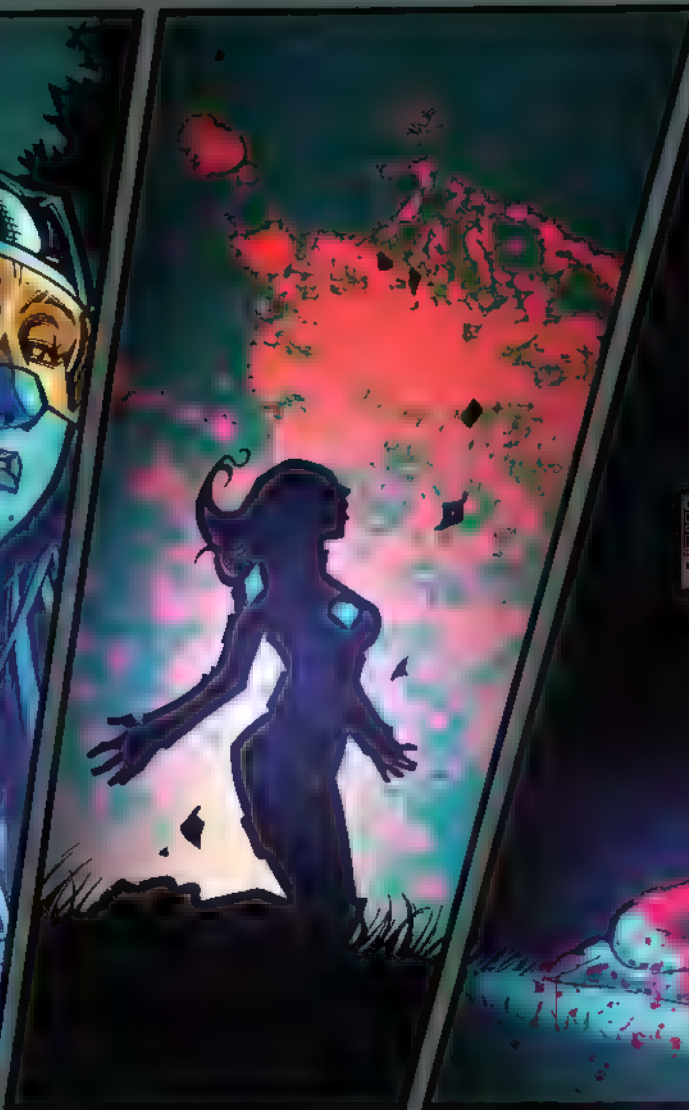
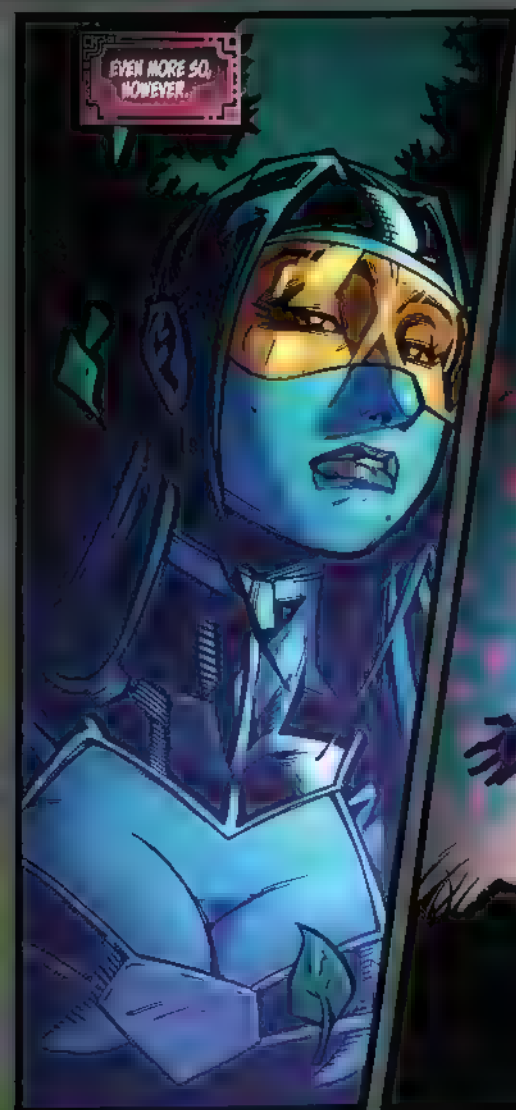
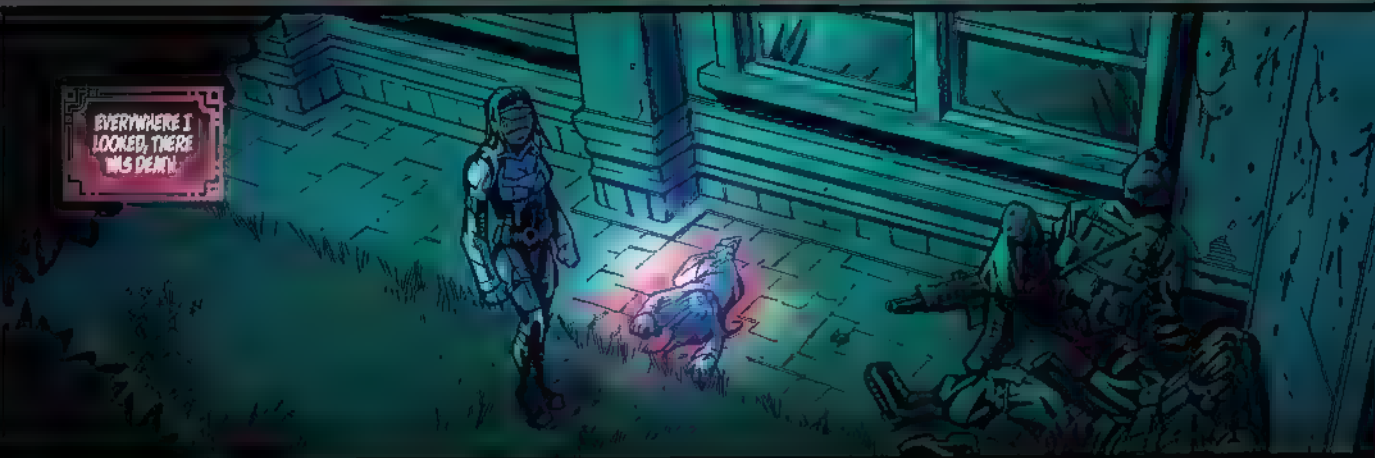
ARRRGH!

ALRIGHT.

YOU KNOW YOU
GOT IT WORSE
THAN ALL OF
THEM.

WHAT--

...BUT HE DIDN'T QUITE
REALIZE WHAT WAS THERE
WAITING FOR HIM.



THE DEMONS GROWING INSIDE
ME FORCED MY HAND. I DECIDED
I NEEDED TO END IT MYSELF TO
EXPIERGE THEM FROM ME.

NOT
ANOTHER
STEP!

IT IS OK... LET
HER IN. BUT, WATCH
HER **CLOSELY**

YOU RETURN
TO MY HOME--
UNARMED? YOU, THE
MURDERER OF MY
ONLY DAUGHTER.
DO YOU WANT
TO DIE?

I AM
READY FOR
WHATEVER
FATE YOU
DECIDE FOR
ME.

I INTENDED TO KILL YOU.
NOT YOUR DAUGHTER. THAT
IS MY MISTAKE I MUST LIVE
WITH, AND I AM PREPARED TO
PAY THE CONSEQUENCES
FOR MY ACTIONS.

THAT IS THE PRICE OF
FAILURE MY INDUSTRY DEMANDS
OF ME... MY CONSCIENCE,
DEMANDS OF ME.

WHAT... IS
YOUR NAME,
WOMAN?



EVERYWHERE I
WENT, I SAW YOUR
DAUGHTER'S
FACE.

I'M SO...
SO SORRY MY
ACTIONS HAVE
LED TO THIS.

AS I TOLD HIM WHO I WAS, I
REMEMBER THINKING THIS WAS
THE FIRST PERSON I'VE EVER
TOLD SUCH THINGS TO. INTIMATE
DETAILS OF MY PROFESSION.

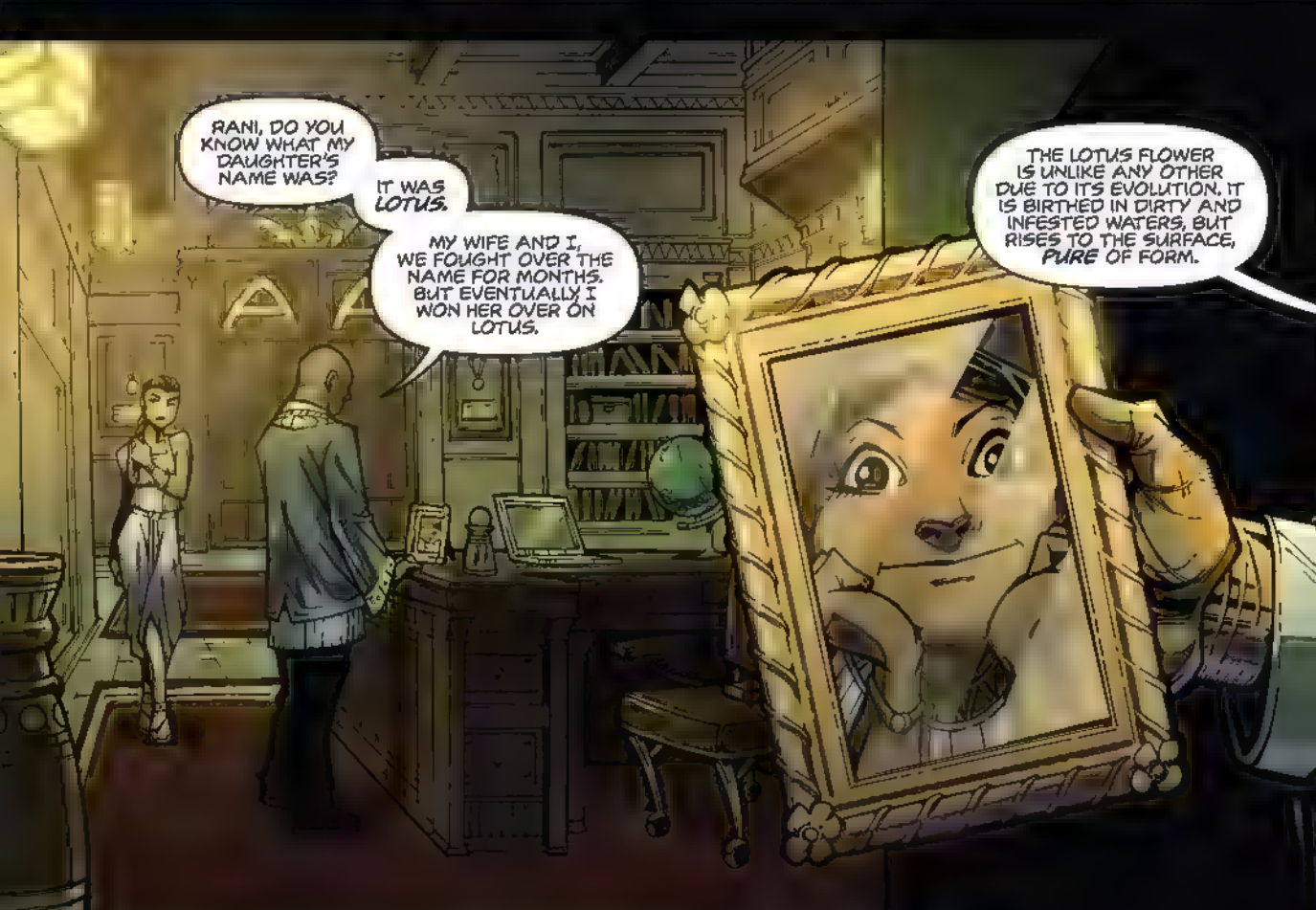
TO HIS CREDIT, HE LISTENED TO
EVERY WORD WITHOUT DISPLAYING
JUDGMENT—OR PERHAPS HE JUST
DIDN'T SHOW IT. ANY ANGER WITHIN,
HE MUST HAVE BEEN HOLDING BACK
WITH EVERY FIBER OF HIS BEING.

...
COME WITH
ME. I WANT
TO SHOW YOU
SOMETHING.

NABHI, DASHI,
IT'S OK, SHE MAY
FOLLOW ME ALONE
FROM HERE.

BUT
SIR—

DID YOU
NOT HEAR
ME?



RANI, DO YOU
KNOW WHAT MY
DAUGHTER'S
NAME WAS?

IT WAS
LOTUS.

MY WIFE AND I,
WE FOUGHT OVER THE
NAME FOR MONTHS.
BUT EVENTUALLY I
WON HER OVER ON
LOTUS.

THE LOTUS FLOWER
IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER
DUE TO ITS EVOLUTION. IT
IS BIRTHED IN DIRTY AND
INFESTED WATERS, BUT
RISES TO THE SURFACE,
PURE OF FORM.



MUCH LIKE
YOURSELF.

I AM IN
NO WAY PURE
OF FORM.

AH, BUT YOU
SEE, YOU HAVE NOT
REACHED YOUR FULL
BLOOM YET. AND I
BELIEVE YOU COMING
TO ME IN SACRIFICE
IS PROOF OF
THIS.

THERE IS ONLY ONE
REASON I NAMED MY
DAUGHTER LOTUS, AND
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO
WITH THE FLOWER OR
IT'S FRUIT.

I AM A MAN OF
PRINCIPLE ABOVE ALL.
AND MY DUTY WILL ALWAYS
BE TO THIS COUNTRY AND
SINCE MY WIFE PASSED, IT'S
BECOME MY LIFE'S SERVICE.
THE LOTUS IS OUR NATIONAL
FLOWER, AND SHE WAS A
LIVING TRIBUTE TO OUR
GREAT COUNTRY.



IT MAKES YOU...
UNCOMFORTABLE
HEARING THESE DETAILS
ABOUT HER, AM I
CORRECT, RANI?

I HAVE MADE
A HABIT OF
IGNORING THE
MORE... HUMAN...
ASPECTS OF
PEOPLE'S LIVES.

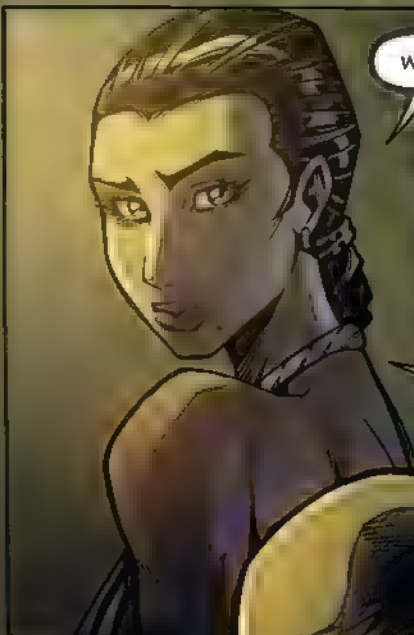
AND YET, MY
DAUGHTER'S
MURDER HAS
DRIVEN YOU
HERE?

LIKE I SAID,
IT CHANGED...
EVERYTHING.



YOU WERE BRAVE
TO TURN YOURSELF
IN TO ME. YOU **MUST**
KNOW I COULD JUST
AS EASILY KILL YOU
FOR WHAT YOU
HAVE DONE.

HOWEVER, MY
DECISION IS TO
ALLOW YOU TO LIVE,
AND TO OFFER YOU
MY FORGIVENESS...
FOR SERVICE.



WHAT?

YOU HEARD ME
CORRECTLY I WILL
SPARE YOUR LIFE, BUT
I ASK OF SOMETHING IN
RETURN. I ASK THAT
YOU TAKE UP HER NAME
IN HER HONOR, AND
HELP ME RESTORE
THE SAME IN OUR
NATION.

I DON'T...
UNDERSTAND.



YOU WILL, SOON
ENOUGH. TELL ME, HAVE
YOU EVER HEARD THE
TITLE, **EXECUTIVE**
ASSISTANT?

SIX MONTHS AGO...

THEY'VE JUST
ARRIVED.

EXCELLENT. I
CANNOT EMPHASIZE
ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT
THIS MEETING IS TO OUR
PLANS. HIS INVESTMENT
CAPITAL IS NECESSARY
FOR OUR NEXT PHASE.
THE EMBASSY TRAIL
CANNOT LEAD BACK
TO US.

YOU'VE STUDIED
HIS NUMBERS
ADEQUATELY?

YES, I HATE
SURPRISES, I KNOW
EVERYTHING THERE
IS TO KNOW ABOUT
HIS FINANCES AS
WELL AS ALL OF
HIS HOLDINGS.

YOU'VE PROVEN
YOURSELF USEFUL
BEYOND MERE
BLOODSHED IN JUST
A SHORT TIME,
LOTUS.

I'M... PROUD
OF YOU.

THANK YOU, VIRAT.
YOUR GRATITUDE... I
WELCOME IT.

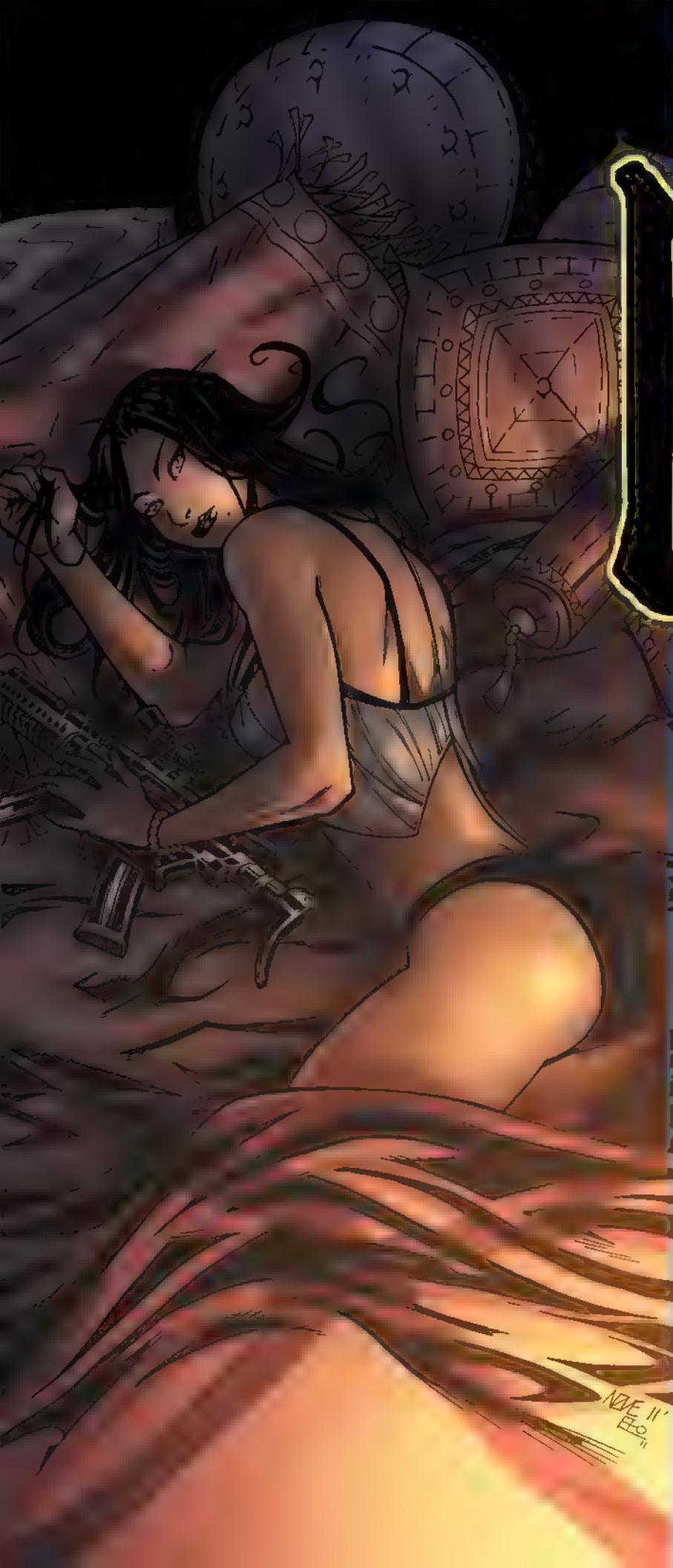
I'M GLAD.
NOW, IT'S TIME.
LET THEM IN.

MY RECON DIDN'T REVEAL THE WOMAN WITH
CHINA. I WILL MAKE SURE TO LOOK INTO HER
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS MEETING...

VIRAT, MY
DEAR FRIEND,
IT'S BEEN TOO
LONG.

I HATE
SURPRISES.

TO BE CONTINUED!



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A LOTUS

the
**HIT
LIST**
AGENDA

ISSUE #2 of 3

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FOREST LAWN CEMETARY,
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

IT IS
IMPORTANT TO
SHOW GOOD
FACE.

NATURALLY

AFTER MEETING CHING'S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, IRIS, I DID MY HOMEWORK
ON WHO EXACTLY SHE WAS. I WISH I HADN'T. SHE IS WHAT I SUSPECTED
SHE WOULD BE. LIKE MYSELF SHE IS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT. NOW,
SHE IS MISSING. WHERE HAVE YOU GONE MISSING TO, IRIS?

MR.
YADAV!
VIRAT!

DIANE
COVERDALE, HOW
WONDERFUL TO SEE
YOU AGAIN, DANIEL,
A PLEASURE AS
ALWAYS.

VIRAT, THE PLEASURE
IS ALL OURS. ONLY I WISH
IT WERE UNDER BETTER
CIRCUMSTANCES. CHING
WAS... A MAN OF GREAT
DETERMINATION.

I WAS JUST TELLING
DAN, IT'S BEEN AGES
SINCE I'VE SEEN THIS
MANY OF HIS OVERSEAS
COLLEAGUES.

WHY MUST IT TAKE
A DEATH BETWEEN
ONE OF YOU TO MAKE
YOU ALL COME OUT
FROM BEHIND YOUR
SMART PHONES.

HA! TRUE INDEED.
I HEAR CHING'S REMAINS
AREN'T EVEN HERE IN THE
STATES, BUT BACK IN HIS
HOMELAND, FOR MORE--
AUTHENTIC-- DEPARTING
SERVICES.

MY MY VIRAT,
I SEE YOU'VE UPGRADED
SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE
HELP DEPARTMENT.

YES, LOTUS IS
HIGHLY CAPABLE
IN MATTERS OF
BUSINESS AND
OPERATIONS.

SPEAKING
OF WHICH, DO
YOU HAVE A
MOMENT?

MEN. ALWAYS
BUSINESS. I GUESS I
SHOULD BLAME MYSELF
I OPENED THE DOOR
BRINGING UP THEIR
SMART PHONES
AND ALL.



CHING'S ACCOUNTS WILL RUN THROUGH YOUR NETWORK NOW.

THE ASSETS WE DECIDED UPON, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY THE SCHOOL BELONGS TO YOU.

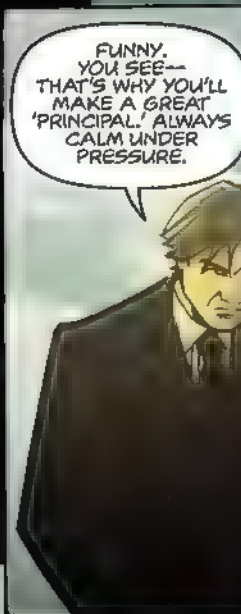
AH, YES. I'VE BECOME THE PRINCIPAL, AS IT WERE.



THIS IS NOT A JOKE.

I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE MY LIFE MAY BE IN DANGER.

CHING ANSWERED TO FAR MORE POWERFUL PEOPLE THAN HIMSELF. MY ADVICE TO YOU-- BE CAREFUL WITH THE SCHOOL.



FUNNY, YOU SEE-- THAT'S WHY YOU'LL MAKE A GREAT 'PRINCIPAL.' ALWAYS CALM UNDER PRESSURE.

COME, MY FRIEND. A FUNERAL IS NO PLACE TO CONTEMPLATE DEATH.



IT SUITS ME WELL. COME, LET US PAY OUR RESPECTS.

NEW DELHI,
INDIA. NOW.

IT PLEASES
ME TO HAVE
PURPOSE
ONCE AGAIN.

SLEEP, IT
COMES EASIER
THESE DAYS.

BUT STILL I RISE EARLY, I MAKE
SURE VIRAT IS SAFE AND SOUND
BEFORE I START MY DAY.

SO WHEN I HEAR HIS
VOICE OUTSIDE MY WINDOW
BEFORE I'M OUT OF BED,
MY INTEREST IS PIGNED.

SOON, I
WISH I HAD
ASLEPT IN.

THE ISRAELI IS A GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL, A POWER PLAYER. I KNOW
HIS IDENTITY BECAUSE I PASSED
ON A CONTRACT TO KILL HIM YEARS
AGO. THE MONEY WASN'T WORTH
THE EFFORT.

THE OTHER MAN IS A
PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL-- THE MAN WHO
PROPOSED TO AS THE
EMBASSY OPERATION. THE
VERY FACT OF HIS
NATIONALITY RAISES MY
SUSPICION LEVEL EVEN MORE.
THIS IS NOT A COMBING OF
POLITICAL AGENDAS SEEN
OFTEN IN THIS REGION.



OUR FORTUNES ARE ON THE RISE, GENTLEMEN. CHING'S RATHER... UNFORTUNATE PASSING MEANS ANY FINANCIAL TRAIL OF THE OPERATION ENDS WITH HIM.*

AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, MY SIDE WILL RESPOND IN KIND TO RECENT EVENTS, THIS MUCH IS CERTAIN. THEY WILL PRESSURE YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR A RESPONSE AFTER THE EMBASSY ATTACK.

* SEE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, IRIS VOLUME ONE FOR MORE DETAILS.



AND WILL THEY V.RAT? CAN YOU PROMISE THIS?

IT MUST GO AS PLANNED, YOU UNDERSTAND?



YOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR WAR FOR FAR TOO LONG. IT'S ABOUT TIME I PROVIDED IT FOR THEM.



EXCELLENT.

GENTLEMEN, I HATE TO BE RUDE, BUT I MUST ATTEND TO PRESSING MATTERS.

OF COURSE...



...AND MANY THANKS TO YOU, AS WELL, FOR YOUR RECENT HAND IN OUR OPERATIONS.

LATER...

DO YOU TRUST THEM?

TRUST IS NOT A LUXURY I'M ABLE TO KEEP IN THIS INDUSTRY LOTUS. YOU KNOW THAT.

VIRAT, BUT... DO YOU THINK WHAT WE'RE DOING IS--

--WHAT WRONG?

I TOLD YOU WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED HERE, RIGHT AND WRONG DO NOT ALWAYS PLAY INTO OUR OBJECTIVES.

IN YOUR PAST PROFESSION, WHEN YOUR CONSCIENCE BEGAN TO REAR IT'S UGLY HEAD, DID YOU NOT IGNORE IT IN ORDER TO COMPLETE YOUR OBJECTIVE?

YES, UNTIL IT BROKE ME.

THANKFULLY FOR US, IT IS NOT WE WHO ARE BROKEN, BUT THE SYSTEM IN PLACE. AND WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE...

...OUR ACTIONS WILL HAVE LED INDIA TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE GLOBAL STAGE...

...AND THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR NATION, PAKISTAN, WILL BE DEFEATED.

TRUST IN THAT.

CORPORATE AND GEO-POLITICAL RESTRUCTURING.
RADICAL EXTREMISM. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SCHOOLS.
HOW DID I FIND MYSELF IN THIS POSITION?

I'M A
KILLER.

PLAIN AND
SIMPLE. IT'S
MY CALLING.

IT'S WHAT I'M
GOOD AT.

BUT AFTER THE EMBASSY.
AFTER THE... OTHER EVENTS
WE'VE ORCHESTRATED...

...I DON'T
KNOW WHAT I AM
ANYMORE.

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE?

PERFECTION.

I'M FAR FROM
PERFECT, I CAN
ASSURE YOU
OF THAT.

I'VE
SEEN YOUR
WORKOUTS, AND
I BEG TO
DIFFER.

IT WASN'T
ONE OF MY BEST
SETS AND YOU
KNOW IT.

SHOULD I
BE FLATTERED BY
YOUR PRAISE...

...OR
WORRIED
THAT YOU'RE
SUCH A GOOD
LIAR.

I KNOW
MUCH BETTER
THAN TO LIE TO
YOU, LOTUS.

REALLY.

WHICH IS WHY I'M
HERE. I WANT YOU TO
KNOW I WILL BE HEADING
TO MYANMAR IN SEVERAL
HOURS, AND I MUST
GO ALONE ON
THIS TRIP.

YOU DON'T
WANT ME TO
ACCOMPANY
YOU--

NOT THIS TIME. I
NEED YOU TO WATCH
OVER MY INTERESTS
HERE WHILE I'M
AWAY.

PLEASE, I'M FAR
MORE SUITED TO
PREVENT ANY DANGER
YOU MAY RUN INTO
THERE.

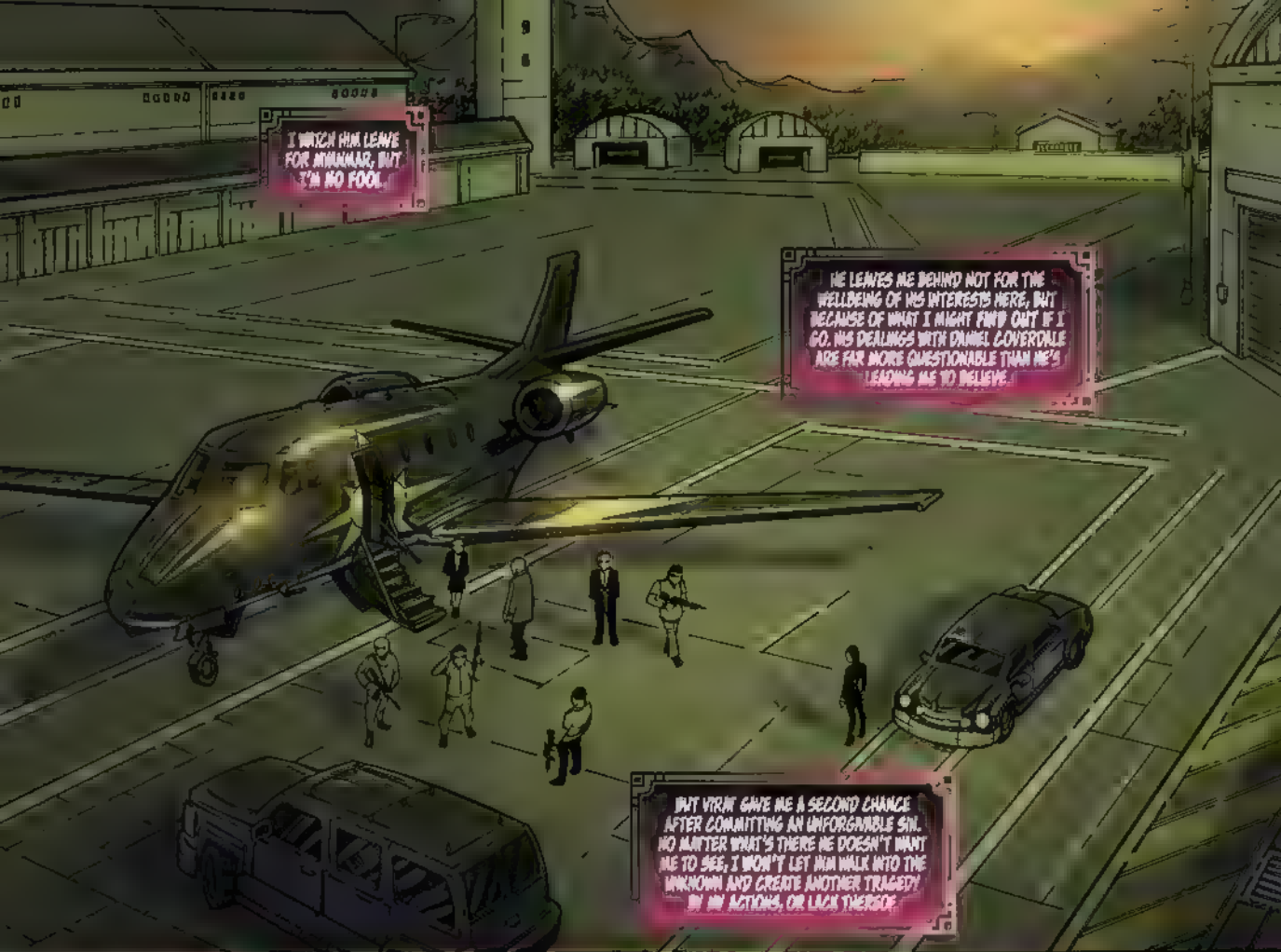
I'M GOING
TO VISIT THE
SCHOOL IN THE
VILLAGE OF
YANGON.

TO MAKE
SURE OUR NEW
INVESTMENT IS
NOT RUN INTO
THE GROUND
BY NOW.

THAT REGION
IS NOT WELCOMING
TO OUR KIND. AND
THOSE SCHOOLS, THEY
BREED KILLERS!
BELIEVE ME...

...YOU CANNOT
TRUST SOMEONE
TRAINED TO SPILL
BLOOD.

I WILL BE
FINE, LOTUS. I KNOW
YOU WORRY ABOUT
ME, BUT REMEMBER,
I OWN THE PLACE,
AFTER ALL.



I WATCH HIM LEAVE
FOR MINHAM, BUT
I'M NO FOOL.

HE LEAVES ME BEHIND NOT FOR THE
WELLBEING OF HIS INTERESTS HERE, BUT
BECAUSE OF WHAT I MIGHT FIND OUT IF I
GO. HIS DEALINGS WITH DANIEL COVERDALE
ARE FAR MORE QUESTIONABLE THAN HE'S
LEADING ME TO BELIEVE.

BUT VIRAT GAVE ME A SECOND CHANCE
AFTER COMMITTING AN UNFORGIVABLE SIN.
NO MATTER WHAT'S THERE HE DOESN'T WANT
ME TO SEE, I WON'T LET HIM WALK INTO THE
UNKNOWN AND CREATE ANOTHER TRAGEDY
BY MY ACTIONS, OR LACK THEREOF.

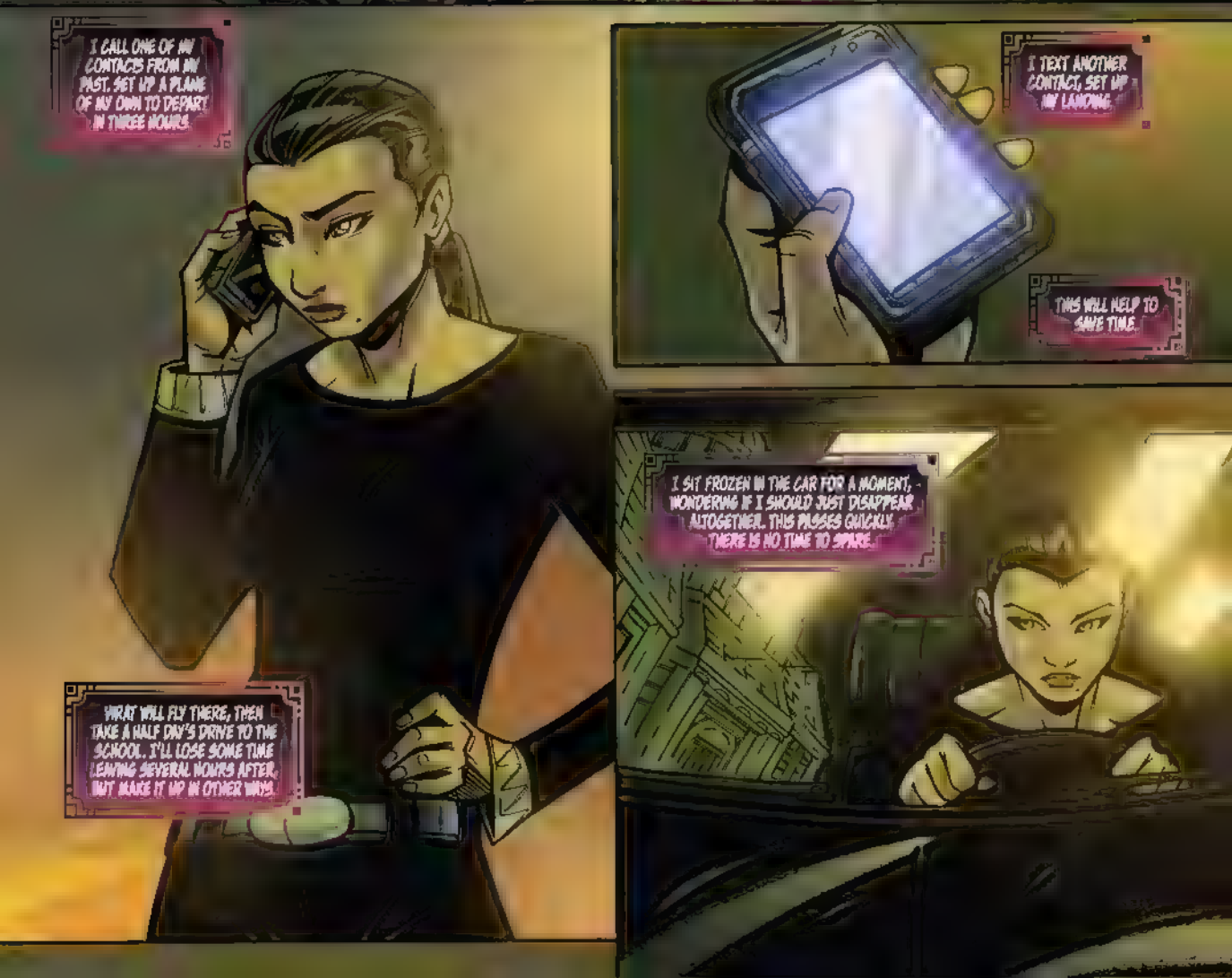
I CALL ONE OF MY
CONTACTS FROM MY
PAST. SET UP A PLANE
OF MY OWN TO DEPART
IN THREE HOURS.

I TEXT ANOTHER
CONTACT, SET UP
MY LANDING.

THIS WILL HELP TO
SAVE TIME.

I SIT FROZEN IN THE CAR FOR A MOMENT,
WONDERING IF I SHOULD JUST DISAPPEAR
ALTOGETHER. THIS PASSES QUICKLY.
THERE IS NO TIME TO SPARE.

VIRAT WILL FLY THERE, THEN
TAKE A HALF DAY'S DRIVE TO THE
SCHOOL. I'LL LOSE SOME TIME
LEAVING SEVERAL HOURS AFTER,
BUT MAKE IT UP IN OTHER WAYS.

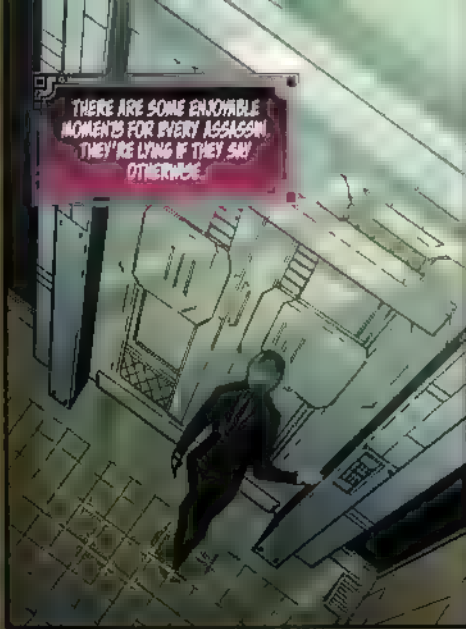




ISRAEL HAS STATED THEY EXPECT A RESPONSE TO THE EMBASSY BOMBING SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, OR THE EMBATTLED NATION WILL RESPOND IN FORCE. TENSIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN-- TWO NUCLEAR-POWERED NATIONS, REMAIN HIGH AT THIS POINT.

WITH ALL THE PARTICULARS COVERED, I HEAD DOWNSTAIRS FOR THE FUN PART.

THERE ARE SOME ENJOYABLE MOMENTS FOR EVERY ASSASSIN. THEY'RE LYING IF THEY SAY OTHERWISE.



AND BESIDES, I AM STILL A WOMAN.



AND WE DO LIKE TO ACCESSORIZE.

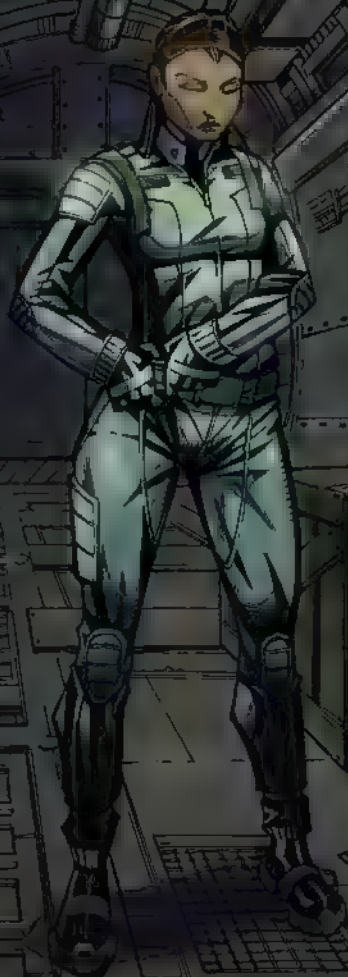


THE SKIES ABOVE
MYANMAR.



THE ACCOMMODATIONS WOULD MAKE
VIRAT CRINGE. A DE-COMMISSIONED
MILITARY PLANE. NO SEATS. NO
CANNAR AND NOT TOWELS.

BUT I MUST SAY I
RELEASH THE EXHILARATION
OF THE UNKNOWN.



DZ COMING UP,
RANI.

IT'S
LOTUS
NOW.

WHATEVER
YOU SAY, RANI.
BE SAFE,
FRIEND.

THANK
YOU. I OWE
YOU ONE.

I
WON'T
LET YOU
FORGET
IT!

I NEED TO SET UP BEFORE VIRAT
ARRIVES. NEED TO SEE THIS PLACE
FOR MYSELF AND LIKE I SAID.



I GOTTA MAKE UP
TIME WHERE I CAN.



ONCE THERE, I MEET WITH A LOCAL CONTACT IN THE VILLAGE FOR A QUICK RUNDOWN OF THE SCHOOL. IMPROPER RECON WILL GET YOU KILLED. I MAKE THIS TIME FOR THIS PRECAUTION.



THE SCHOOL LIES IN A SECLUDED PART OF THE VILLAGE. YOUR BEST CHANCE AT ANY SURVEILLANCE IS FROM INSIDE.

HE CONFIRMS WHAT I ALREADY SUSPECTED



THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY.



I SENSE MY CONTACT WAS WITHHOLDING SOMETHING.

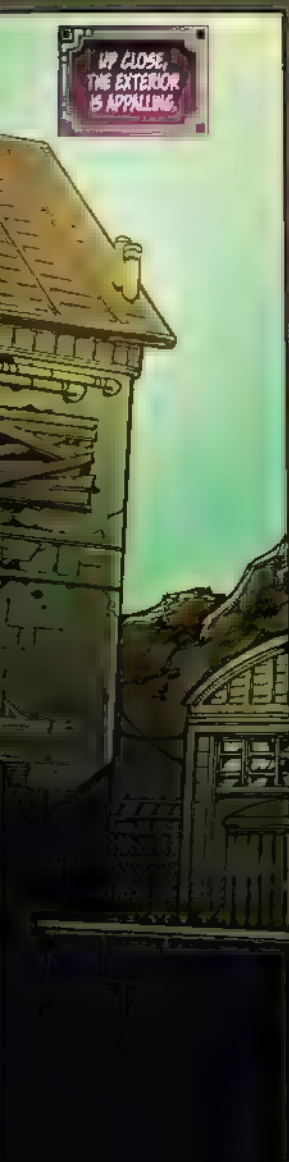


...BUT I LACK ENOUGH TIME TO INVESTIGATE



IDEALLY, I WOULD NEVER
BREAK-AND-ENTER OR SET UP
SURVEILLANCE UNDER DAYLIGHT HOURS,
BUT THE TIMEFRAME DOESN'T ALLOW
FOR OTHERWISE.

VRAT WILL BE HERE
IN A COUPLE OF HOURS—
MAYBE LESS.



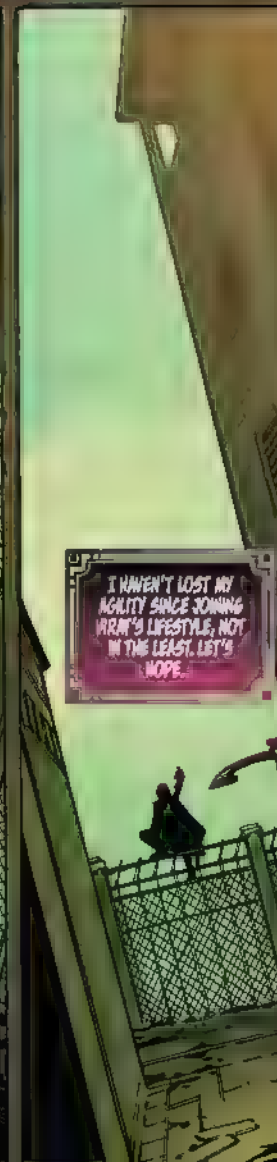
UP CLOSE,
THE EXTERIOR
IS APPALLING.



TIME TO
GET A BETTER
LOOK.



I HAVEN'T LOST MY
AGILITY SINCE JOINING
VRAT'S LIFESTYLE, NOT
IN THE LEAST. LET'S
HOPE.



...MY AIM HASN'T
CHANGED EITHER.



IT LOOKS... EMPTY...
NOT GOOD.



PICKING UP NO
SOUNDS FROM INSIDE
AND IT'S MIDDAY...
ALSO, NOT GOOD.



MEANS I NEED TO
GO IN AND SEE FOR
MYSELF.



IN MY PREVIOUS LINE OF WORK, I HAD HEARD OF
ONE OF THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT GRADUATES,
BUT NONE OF THEIR TRAINING.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO EXPECT.



I'M NOT EVEN SURE
WHAT THIS IS.

THIS LOOKS LIKE...
SOMETHING OUT OF A HORROR
FILM. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY
BE GOING ON HERE?

AND IS THAT...

BLOOD?

THIS IS ALL TOO MUCH.
I SHOULD REVEAL TO MIRAT
THAT I FOLLOWED HIM. BUT,
HE WOULD NEVER TRUST ME
AGAIN. NOT AFTER MY
PAST HISTORY.

IF HE EVER
TRUSTED ME TO
BEGIN WITH.

WHATEVER IS GOING ON HERE,
MIRAT CAN'T BE SAFE. SO IT IS
UP TO ME TO PROTECT HIM.





SURPRISED?

VIRAT--???

SHOULDN'T I
BE THE ONE TAKEN
ABACK BY YOUR
APPEARANCE
HERE?

I--

NO NEED TO
EXPLAIN YOURSELF
I KNEW YOU'D
FOLLOW ME.

IT'S WHAT
YOU DO BEST--
LIE.

WELL,
BESIDES
MURDER.

I... I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

SURE YOU
DO, YOU'RE MUCH
SMARTER THAN
YOU LET ON, RANI.
COME, FOLLOW
ME.

DID YOU REALLY
BELIEVE I COULD
FORGIVE YOU FOR SUCH
AN UNFORGIVABLE
ACT? THAT YOU WOULD
LABOR AWAY YOUR
DEBT TO ME, AND
ALL WOULD BE
FORGOTTEN?

NO!
FORGIVENESS
WAS NEVER AN
OPTION. I USED
YOU UNTIL I NO
LONGER NEEDED
YOU...



AND NOW...
YOU DIE!



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT LOTUS

the
**HIT
LIST
AGENDA**

ISSUE #3 of 3

VINCE HERNANDEZ
OLIVER NOME
EMILIO LOPEZ



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OLIVER NOME

EMILIO LOPEZ

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LOTUS

PART 3 OF 3



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EMILIO LOPEZ

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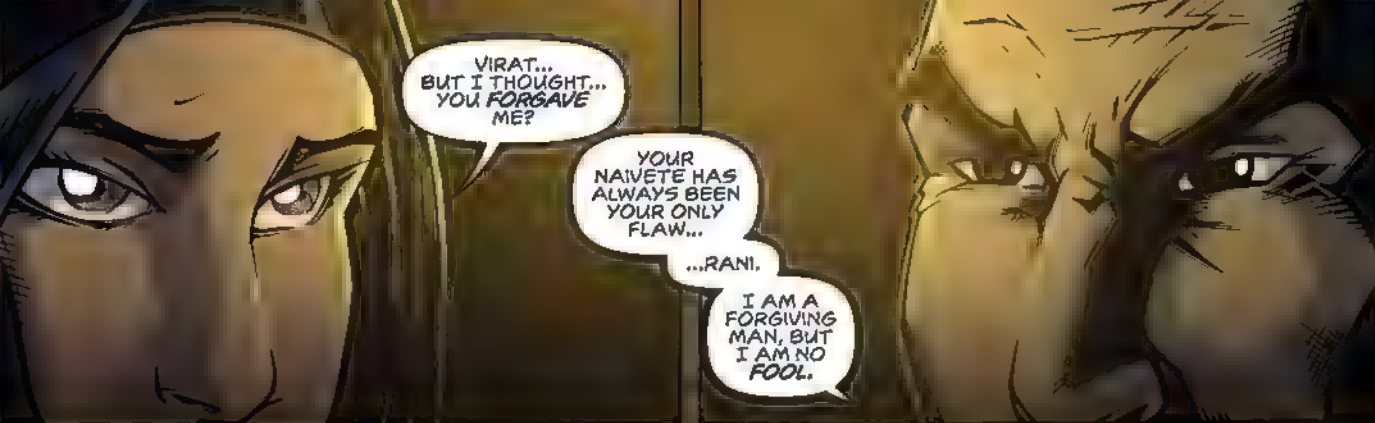
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I SHOULD HAVE
SEEN THIS
COMING.

IT'S TIME YOU
PAID FOR YOUR
MISDEEDS.





VIRAT...
BUT I THOUGHT...
YOU FORGAVE
ME?

YOUR
NAIVETE HAS
ALWAYS BEEN
YOUR ONLY
FLAW...

...RANI.

I AM A
FORGIVING
MAN, BUT
I AM NO
FOOL.



I LOVED HER!
SHE WAS THE LIGHT
OF MY WORLD AND
YOU EXTINGUISHED
IT WITH YOUR PETTY
GREED AND
SELFISHNESS!

I KNEW EVEN
ASKING YOU NOT TO
FOLLOW ME HERE WAS *JUST*
TOO MUCH FOR YOUR SELF-
CENTERED EGO TO RESIST.
NOW, YOU WILL DIE FOR
YOUR WEAKNESS.



YOU ARE WRONG. I
FOLLOWED YOU BECAUSE I
CARED FOR YOU. FOR ONCE,
I CARED ABOUT SOMEONE
BEYOND MYSELF. I...
SACRIFICED IT ALL ONCE
FOR YOU BEFORE...



...BUT YOU
USED ME.
NOW...



...WE ARE
EVEN!

GET
HER!



I MUST USE THE ROOMS OF
THE SCHOOL TO MY ADVANTAGE. I
CAN'T DEFEAT THEM AS A WHOLE,
BUT IF I CAN SEPARATE THEM, I
MIGHT STAND A CHANCE.

I STILL CANNOT BELIEVE
HE BETRAYED ME, BUT I MOST
CERTAINLY WON'T DWELL ON
IT. I NEED TO FOCUS— AND
THINK FAST.

FIRST ONE I ENCOUNTER, I
WILL TRY TO SUBDUCE QUICKLY.
JUST NEED TO GET CLOSE
ENOUGH TO—

AH.

ON SECOND
THOUGHT.



SOME DISTANCE MIGHT
WORK BETTER

NIN NIN,
HEAD SHOT



GRAAAH!

UNNGHH!

HOLD
HER!

HRAH!

NO,
WAIT!

AGGH--!

*TRANSLATED
FROM BURMESE.

YEOWWW!

THAT...

YOU
MISS--!

...HURT!

BLAAM

GAAAAH!

YES... DISTANCE
WAS CERTAINLY A
BETTER IDEA

I COUNTED
TEN OF THEM.
NOW EIGHT.

IF I CAN FIND
ANOTHER ROOM TO
SET UP AN AMBUSH,
I SHOULD BE

MY PISTOL, NO.

6457

UNGH!

KRAKK

HRAAAAH!

I COUGH
I COUGH



POISON SMOKE?
HOW MANY DIFFERENT...
UNGH... SUBJECTS DO
THEY TEACH IN THIS
DAMN PLACE?

NO
TALK...



VERY
GOOD.
BREATHE
IT IN--

EGHH...

...JUST
DEATH!



LOTUS,
DO YOU
REMEMBER
ME?

~COUGH~
IRIS?? WHAT ARE
YOU ~COUGH~
DOING HERE?

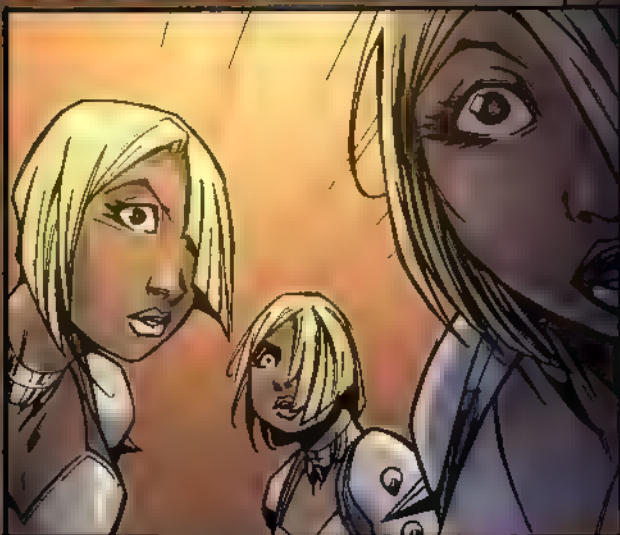
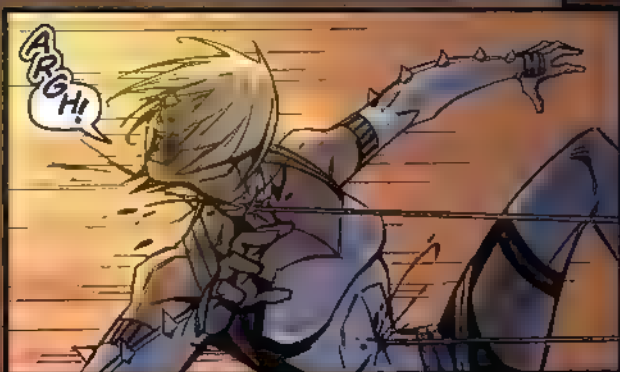
VIRAT. WE
MUST HURRY.
HE CANNOT
GET AWAY.

THERE'S STILL...
SEVEN ~COUGH~
OF THEM LEFT.
DO YOU HAVE
A GUN?

NO, NO
GUN ON ME. THIS
WASN'T SUPPOSED
TO TAKE PLACE
DURING DAYLIGHT--
NOT THIS WAY.

BUT IN MY
RECON, I SAW
YOU ENTER. I HAD
NO CHOICE. I DO
HAVE MY SWORD,
HOWEVER...

...AND I
PREFER THE
OLD FASHIONED
WAY.





CHING'S ASSISTANT?

IRIS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT PURPOSE YOU HAVE HERE, BUT THIS FIGHT DOES NOT CONCERN YOU. I OWN CHING'S ASSETS NOW-- ALL OF THEM. YOURSELF INCLUDED.

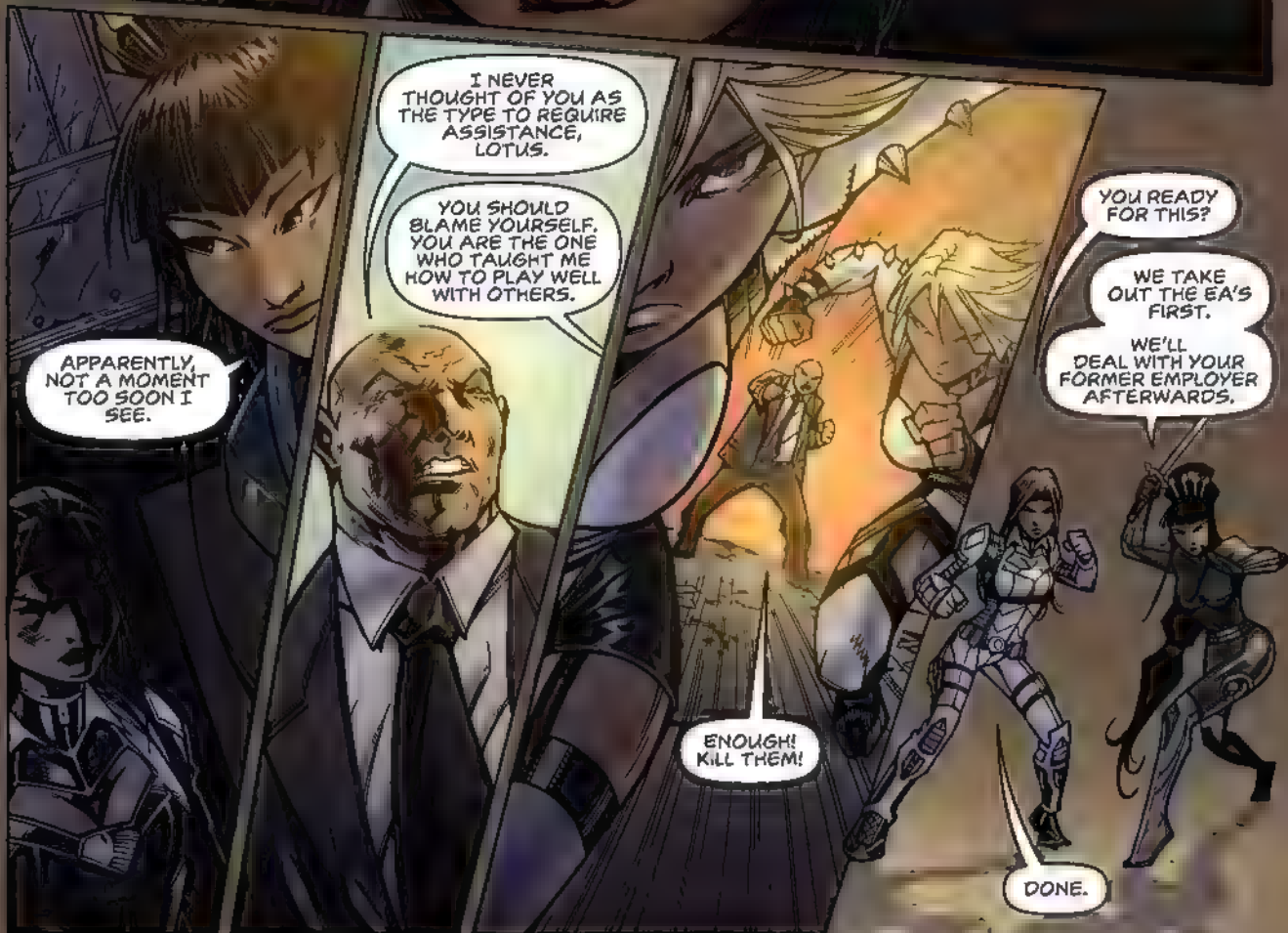
I WILL FORGIVE YOU FOR HELPING HER-- FOR KILLING MY STUDENTS-- MY PROPERTY-- IN THERE. JUST PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPON AND YOU WILL BE SET FREE.



SET FREE?

I'M ALREADY FREE. HOWEVER, YOU ARE CORRECT. I DO ANSWER TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY.

AND MY SUPERIOR, DUNCAN VILLONE, REQUESTS YOUR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM YOUR POSITION.



I NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU AS THE TYPE TO REQUIRE ASSISTANCE, LOTUS.

YOU SHOULD BLAME YOURSELF. YOU ARE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS.

APPARENTLY, NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON I SEE.

YOU READY FOR THIS?

WE TAKE OUT THE EA'S FIRST.

WE'LL DEAL WITH YOUR FORMER EMPLOYER AFTERWARDS.

ENOUGH! KILL THEM!

DONE.



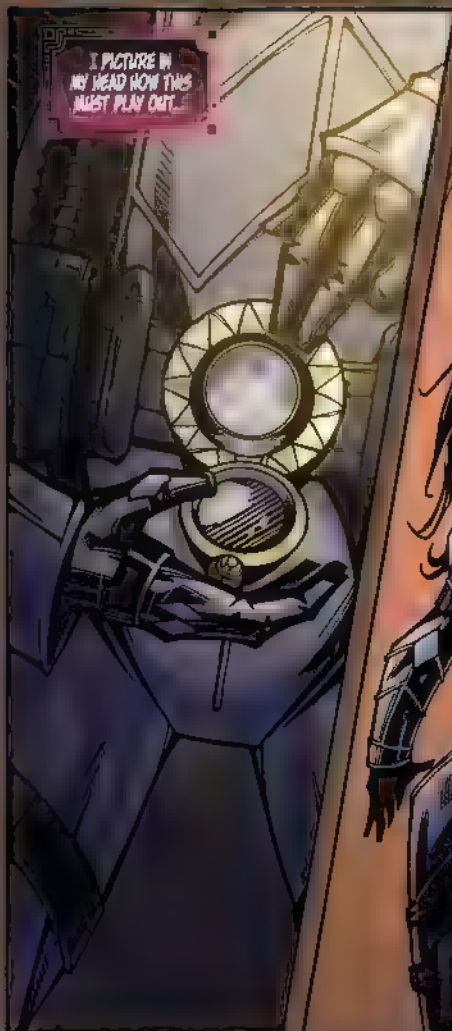
YES,
AND DONE
SWIFTLY

YAAAH!

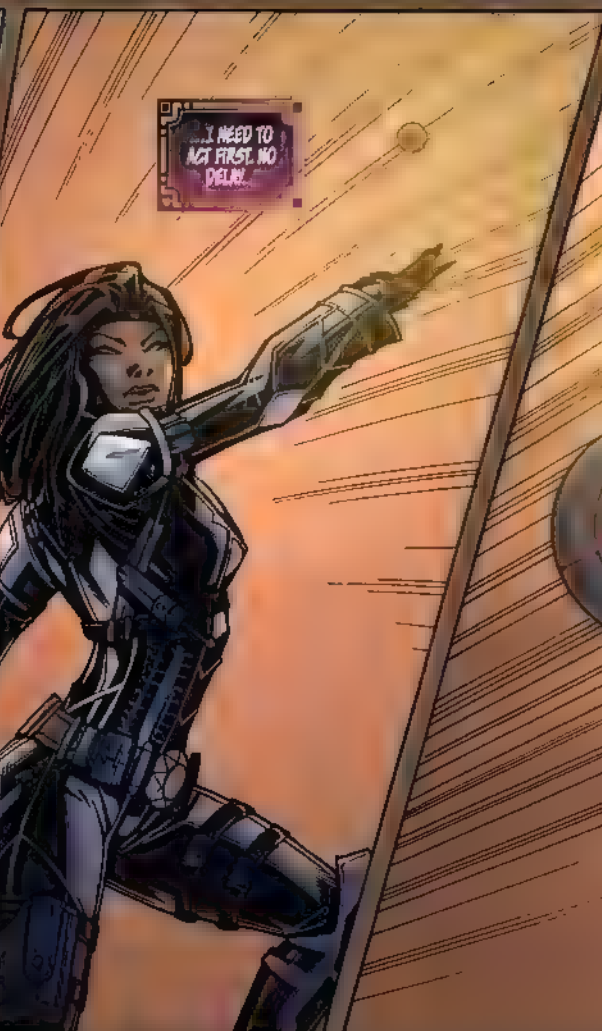


YOUR
LIFE STILL
BELONGS TO
ME, LOTUS!

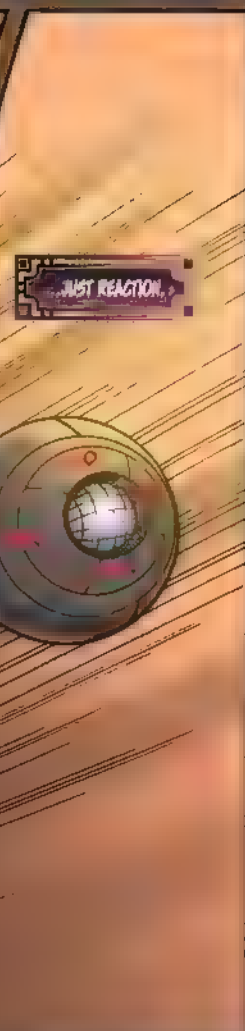
TAKE
IT FROM
HER!



I PICTURE IN
MY HEAD HOW THIS
MUST PLAY OUT...



I NEED TO
ACT FIRST. NO
DELAY.

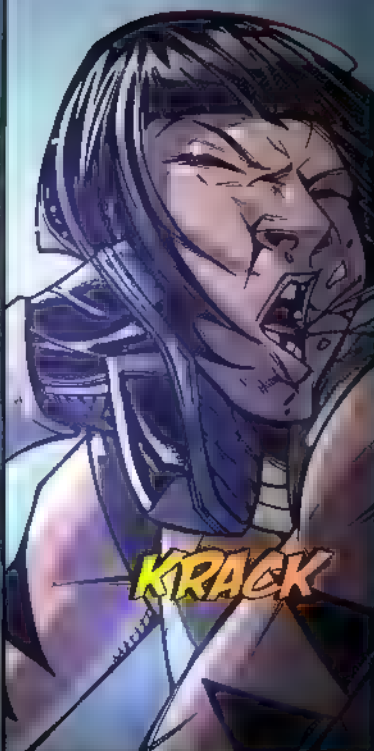


JUST REACTION.

THE FLASH ALLOWS ME
THE FIRST MOVE.

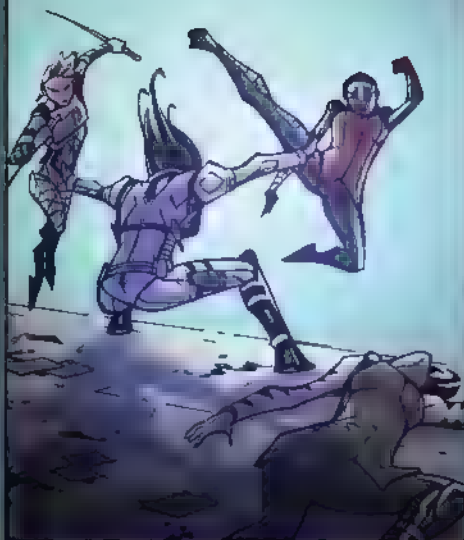


I WASTE NO TIME
IN TAKING IT.

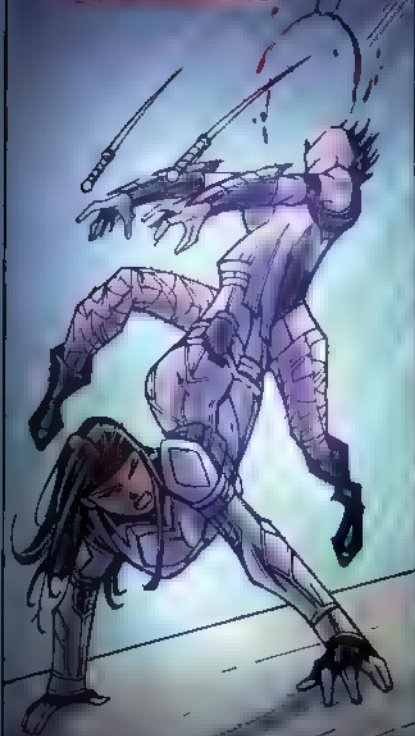


KIRACK

I NARROWLY AVOID
THE SECOND ONE.



BUT BY MY CHOICE
NOT THE THIRD ONE.



-WOOOMPHH!-



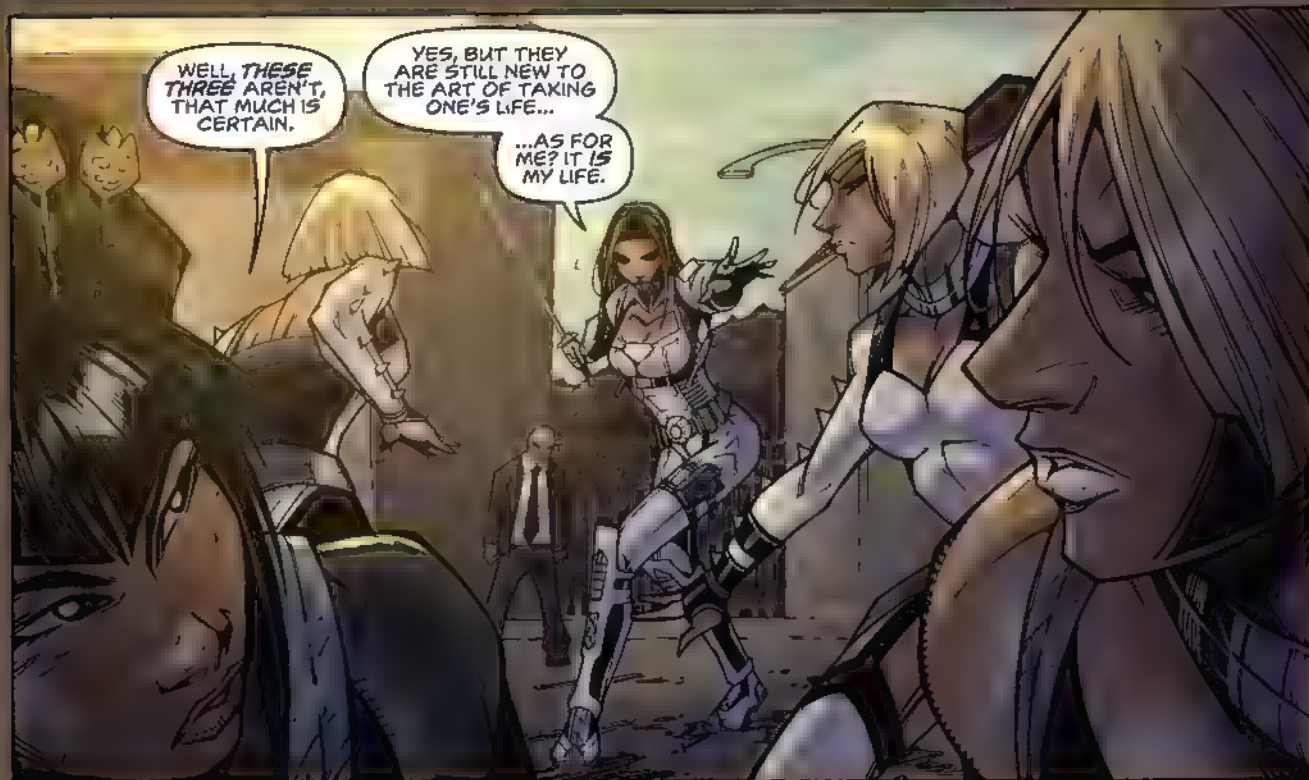
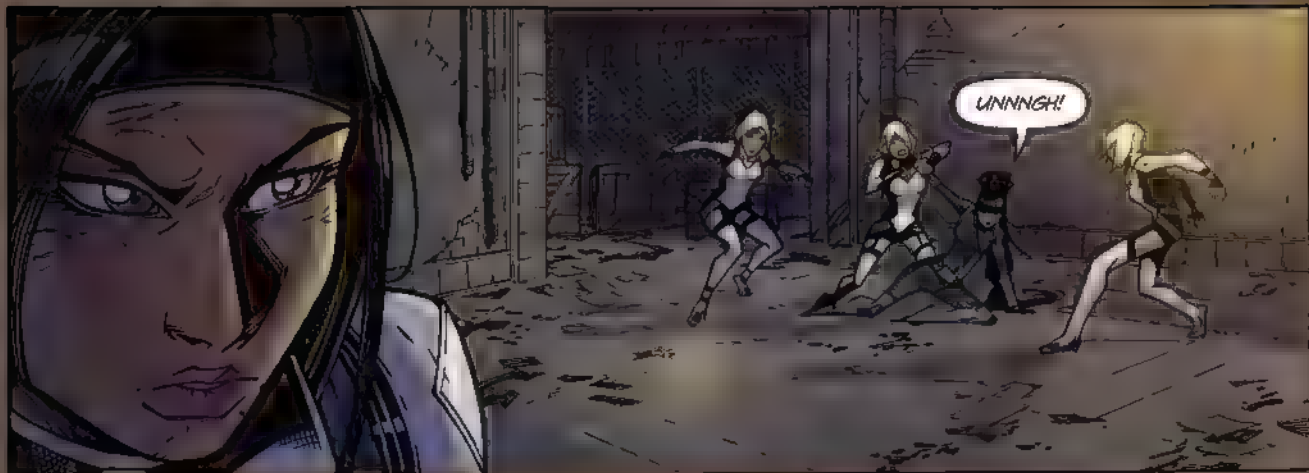
THIS IS FAR
TOO EASY.

THESE GIRLS ARE
NOT COMBAT-READY.
THEY'RE CHILDREN. IS
THERE ANY OUNCE OF
HONOR LEFT IN YOUR
HEART?

...BECAUSE IF
THERE IS, I WILL
BEAT IT OUT
OF YOU.



LOTUS!





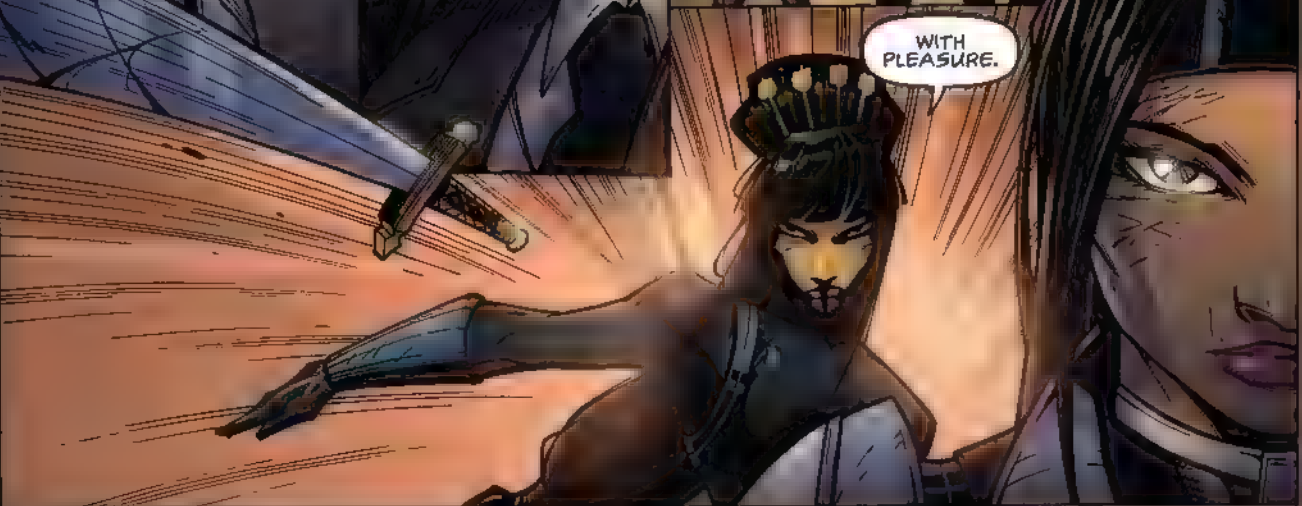
Aaaaaa...

HUUUUUGGH!

WHAAM

YOUR SWORD.
VERY NICE WORK.

IT'S NOT OVER!







IRIS AND I SET FIRE TO THE SCHOOL. TOOK IT OFF THE MAP AS PER HER ORDERS.

BUT, WE SET THE GIRLS FREE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES, THEY'LL NEED TO FIND THEIR OWN WAY NOW.

IRIS NEVER DID COME CLEAN TO ME AS TO WHY HER NEW EMPLOYER WANTED VIRAT DEAD.



THANK YOU. YOU SAVED MY LIFE. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN EVER REPAY THAT DEBT.

BUT I GUESS, IN THE END, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.

PERHAPS THAT DAY MAY COME. WE WILL SEE. BUT FOR NOW-- YOU ARE WELCOME.

ALWAR, INDIA.

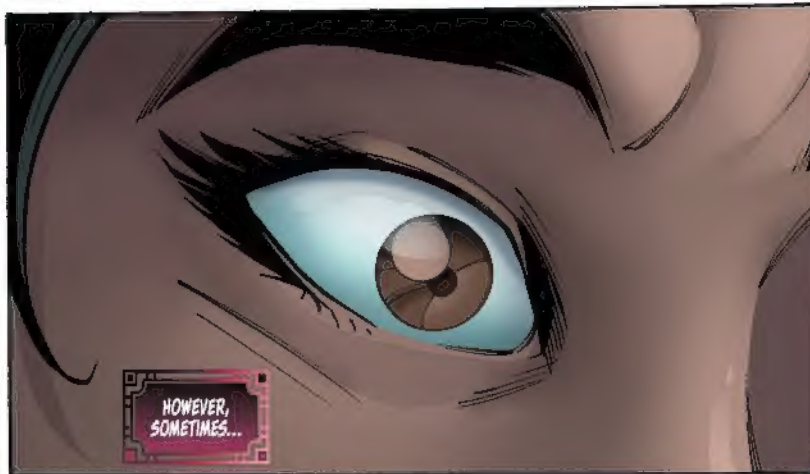
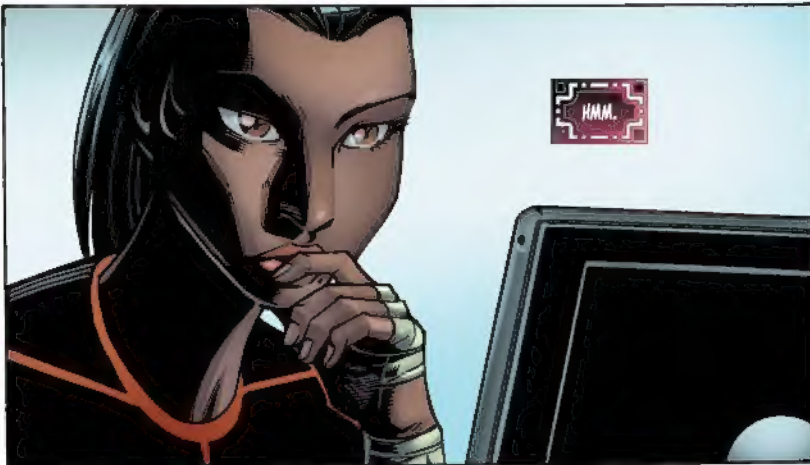
RETURNING HOME, WITH NO
ALLEGIANCE TO VIRAT ANYMORE. I FIND
THAT THINGS HAVE NOT CHANGED...

COME
ON...



WHO'S
A GOOD
BOY...

YET EVERYTHING
HAS CHANGED.



INDIA DECLARES WAR ON PAKISTAN

Region in Chaos



...CHANGE CAN BE FOR THE WORSE.

TO BE CONTINUED!?!
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS #4
THE MIT LIST AGENDA